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IN THE CLAIMS

1. – 42. (canceled)

43. (currently amended) A switch station, which exchanges a fixed-length packet with a predetermined format, comprising:

a switch exchanging the fixed-length packet;

a control processor generating control information in a link access protocol (LAP) frame data format, in a data format of which can not ~~can not~~ be exchanged by said switch, to control operations of this switch station;

an intra-station device, provided within this switch station, performing a communication operation according to the control information from said control processor; and

an interface unit converting the data format of the generated control information into a data format of the fixed-length packet which said switch can exchange;

wherein the converted control information is communicated through said switch,

the control information is communicated according to link access protocol, and

said interface unit converts the data format of the control information into the data format processed by the switch station, adds to the control information such routing information as can be identified by the switch station and routed by said interface unit at a receiving equipment, and transmits the information to the switch station.

44. (previously presented) The switch station according to claim 43, wherein

said intra-station device comprises identifying means for identifying whether received data is subscriber data or the control information; and

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said intra-station device transmits the data after adding routing information, when said identifying means has received the subscribed data, to received subscriber data to be routed to a destination, and after adding the routing information, when said identifying means has received the control information, to received control information to be routed to said interface unit at said receiving equipment.

45. – 49. (canceled)

50. (withdrawn from consideration) The switch station according to claim 95, wherein said control processor checks for a fault in the device connected to the control processor according to the test program.

51. – 52. (canceled)

53. (withdrawn from consideration) A switch station for testing an exchange station for switching cells, comprising in the exchange station:

software executing means for executing software for sending, looping back, and receiving a test cell;

test cell inserting/extracting means for conducting an inter-station loopback test in a switch network by directly inserting the test cell generated by the software executed by said software executing means into an inter-station connection device for switching data between stations in a switch network containing the exchange station, or by directly extracting the test cell from the inter-station connection device, wherein

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said test cell stores information specifying forward and backward paths of the test cell,

and

said software executed by said software executing means conducts an inter-station loopback test in the switching network according to the information specifying the forward and backward paths of the test cell.

54. (withdrawn from consideration) A switch station for testing an exchange station for switching cells, comprising in the exchange station:

software executing means for executing software for sending, looping back, and receiving a test cell;

test cell inserting/extracting means for conducting an inter-station loopback test in a switch network by directly inserting the test cell generated by the software executed by said software executing means into an inter-station connection device for switching data between stations in a switch network containing the exchange station, or by directly extracting the test cell from the inter-station connection device, wherein

said test cell stores information specifying source and destination station telephone numbers of the test cell, and

said software executed by said software executing means conducts an inter-station loopback test in the switching network according to the information specifying the source and destination station telephone numbers of the test cell.

55. – 94. (canceled)

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95. (withdrawn from consideration) A switch station, which exchanges a packet with a predetermined format, comprising:

an output port which connects to an output highway;

an input port which connects to an input highway;

a memory storing a program for a loopback test; and

a control processor performing the loopback test by executing the program, wherein

the output highway and input highway are connected to a loopback device during the

loopback test.

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